GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2577
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2001
PROJECTS FOR CLEARANCE
GANGASANDRA SIDDAPPA BASAVARAJ

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in a bid to speed up implementation of the projects, the Union Government propose to de-bottleneck the clearance system;

(b) If so, whether the proposal is to enhance monetary limits of projects for clearance;

(c) Whether it is also a fact that the present limit for Standing Finance Committees(SFCs) is Rs. 15.00 Cr. and Rs.15-50 Cr. for Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) and the projects beyond Rs. 50.00 Cr. is usually referred to CabinetCommittee on Economic Affairs (CCEA);

(d) If so, the steps being taken for clearing the projects faster;

(e) Whether it is also a fact that the Planning Commission has also suggested that the SFC need not seek its permission again, once approval in-principle has been given to a project; and

(f) If so, the extent to which it is likely to help in completion of the projects?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES(SHRI MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY O PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTE STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE(SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE)

(a): Yes, Sir. Government has constituted a Committee to examine the extant procedures for investment approvals and implementation of the projects and suggest measures to simplify and expedite the process of public and private investment. The Committee is headed by Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. The Committee will be serviced by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

(b): Enhancement of monetary limits for projects, for clearance by, concerned forums like, Standing Finance Committee/ Expenditure Finance Committee and Public Investment Board, are under the consideration of the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance.

(c): Yes, Sir.

(d): The matter is being examined by the Committee set up by the Government under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Petroleum and Natural Gas.

(e) Yes, Sir. The Planning Commission has decided that it would not be involved in the Standing Finance Committee cases and the concerned Department / Ministry can convene the SFC meeting, without inviting Planning Commission`s representative provided;

i) The scheme is included in the plan with adequate allocations

ii) `In Principle` approval of Planning Commission (which would mean thespecific approval of Secretary, Planning Commission) has been obtained for introduction of a new Central Sector Scheme / Centrally Sponsored Scheme in the Five Year and Annual Plan of the Department / Ministry and,

iii) In case (ii) above has not been obtained, the Ministry / Department should sendthe proposal to Planning Commission for `in principle` approval.

This decision has been conveyed to all Union Ministries / Departments.

(f) This a step for simplification of the procedure for approval of Plan Schemes.